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Hudud is Pas' main struggle, says Mustafa

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KUALA LUMPUR: Hudud may not be part of the opposition's *Buku Jingga* (Orange Book), but that does not mean Pas will drop the idea of implementing it.

Pas secretary-general Datuk Mustafa Ali said the *Buku Jingga* did not contain everything which the opposition stood for, as there were other policies to be considered, too.

Buku Jingga is a document of Pakatan Rakyat's policies, known as the common policy framework.

"From the Islamic point of view, hudud is our main struggle. Although DAP does not agree with this, they respect our decision. And we agree to disagree," Mustafa said

yesterday.

"But, whatever we in Pas do, it will be a democratic process and the people will decide what they want."

Mustafa also denied a report by the opposition-friendly news portal Free Malaysia Today, which said Pakatan would not implement hudud should it take over Putrajaya in the next general election.

"That's not true. We have other policies in place. *Buku Jingga* is not everything. As an Islamic party, we (Pas) cannot reject hudud."

He pointed out that Pas had no plans to implement hudud in Kedah, where the party does not have a two-thirds majority in the

state assembly despite leading the state government.

"We don't have the intention and we don't have the numbers."

Asked whether hudud would be implemented if Pas had the numbers, he said "it was up to the people to decide".

Pressed further to state whether hudud would be implemented should Pakatan come to power, he said "they would have to see the democratic process".

Hudud is a term used in syariah to describe the class of punishment for crimes such as theft, fornication and adultery, apostasy, and consumption of alcohol and other in-

toxicants.

Hudud has been a thorny issue between Pas and DAP, with the latest episode being an ongoing polemic between DAP chairman Karpal Singh and Pas leaders.

Mustafa said hudud was not the main issue discussed at Pakatan's secretariat meeting at Parti Keadilan Rakyat headquarters yesterday.

He added that the Independence Day theme and *Tanda Putera* film had been the main points raised at the meeting.

"We want the government to let us opposition leaders to watch the film first. We want to know if the film will really bring unity or otherwise."